

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

Notice was duly published January 14, 2020 on page 4 of The Daily Record that the regular public meeting of the Commissioners of the Nebraska Public Service Commission would be held on January 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln.

Chair Mary Ridder called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 10:00 AM. with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier present and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused. Chair Ridder stated that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room and invited the public to address the Commission. No public comments were received. Chair Ridder announced that Ashley Beck has joined the Commission's General Administration Department as an Accountant.

Attention was called to the following proceedings:

Thursday, January 23, 2020:

NG-101.1 Black Hills Energy - **Quarterly Status Meeting**
PI-224 9:00 a.m. - Commission Hearing Room
 Commissioner Rod Johnson - Hearing Officer

Tuesday, January 28, 2020:

Commission Meeting

10:00 a.m. - Commission Hearing Room

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

AD-681 In the Matter of the Application of TPUSA - FHCS, Inc.,
 Murray, Utah, seeking authority to connect an automatic dialing-
announcing device in Dallas, Texas. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, to enter an Order granting application. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

Cullen Robbins discussed the late-filed remittance worksheets for Legacy Long Distance International, Inc., and sought Commission approval to open a Complaint. Motion made by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to approve opening a Complaint. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

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STATE 911 DEPARTMENT

911-042.65 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Dixon County. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram to enter an Order approving use of set-aside funds. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT

NG-78.7 In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy, for authority to adjust the System Safety and Integrity charges (2020). Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, to enter an order approving the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

NG-13/ PO-66 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, to evaluate and establish, on a quarterly basis, an assessment for jurisdictional utilities pursuant to the State Natural Gas Regulation Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §66-1801 et seq. Motion made by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to enter progression order #66. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

NG-78.7 In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy, for authority to adjust the System Safety and Integrity charges (2020).
Hills Gas NG-100 In the Matter of the Joint Application of Black Distribution, LLC, and Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC, Rapid City, South Dakota, seeking approval to consolidate the Nebraska tariffs, assets, liabilities, and operations of the two companies, and to rename the consolidated entity Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC.
NG-101/ PI-224 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion opening an investigatory docket for the purpose of general monitoring of issues regarding the natural gas industry and jurisdictional utilities in Nebraska; and

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NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT (cont.)

NG-101.1 Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC, and Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy. Motion made by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to enter assessment orders NG-78.7/BA-20 and BA-21; NG-100/BA-15 and NG-101.1/BA-7. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

Nichole Mulcahy reported a total number of 12 consumer complaints and inquiries received at the Commission during the fourth quarter of 2019. For each company: Black Hills Energy - 4; Black Hills Distribution - 4; and NorthWestern - 0; and Other Entities - 4.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

R&R 202 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to amend Title 291, Chapter 16, to adopt Reverse Auction and Wireless Registry rules and regulations in accordance with Nebraska Legislative Bill 994 [2018]. Motion made by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to enter an order setting hearing. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

LEGISLATIVE

Nichole Mulcahy discussed pending legislation.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

B-1996 In the Matter of the Application of Nebraska Excellent Health Transportation Services, Omaha, seeking authority as a common carrier in Nebraska intrastate commerce in the transportation of passengers in open class between points in Douglas and Sarpy counties over irregular routes. RESTRICTIONS: The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not authorized. HHS Designation: No. Motion made by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, to enter an Order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

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TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

M-14251 In the Matter of the Application of Fred's Premier Transportation Services, LLC, Omaha, seeking authority as a common carrier in Nebraska intrastate commerce in the transportation of household goods between all points in Nebraska over irregular routes. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, to enter an Order dismissing the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

MT-0001 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to address certain carriers in non compliance with annual renewal requirements. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, to enter an Order to dismiss in part. Motion passed with Commissioners Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Rod Johnson excused not voting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

No motion was made on the Executive Director's recommendation to approve Commission invoices. No invoices were presented to the Commission for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier present. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM with an agenda to be available in the office of the Executive Director at 10:00 AM on January 27, 2020.

Chair

Executive Director